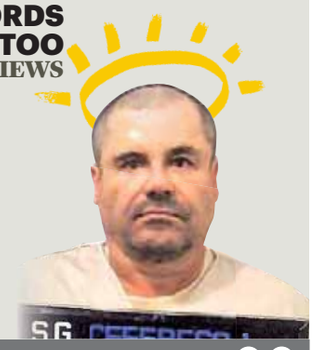
Good, bad and *really* bad

Razzies announced just before the Oscars **metroLIFE**

Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016 | High -2°C/Low -9°C Sun and cloud

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
DRUG LORDS HAVE GODS, TOO
metroVIEWS



John and Justin: BFFs

Justin Trudeau and John Tory make their way through the crowd at Nathan Phillips Square on Wednesday.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

TRUDEAUMANIA

Prime minister, mayor discuss new era for city, feds, province

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

No new projects were announced, no dollar figures were offered and no timelines given.

But Wednesday's meeting between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mayor John Tory attracted hundreds of fans, ranging from cheering taxi drivers to young people scrambling for selfies.

From the moment he arrived in Nathan Phillips Square, Trudeau was surrounded by a practical mob of fans. The prime minister took it all in, stopping to shake hands and pose for photos en route to a 45-minute meeting with the mayor. "It's like he's a rock star," one onlooker said.

The mayor's office noted Trudeau's visit is the first time a sitting prime minister has come to City Hall since amalgamation in 1998. Others have met with mayors and visited the city but not its seat of government.

Trudeau thanked Tory for welcoming Syrian refugees to the city, noting Toronto has "opened its homes, hearts and wallets to people fleeing extraordinary circumstances."

Tory returned the compliment, saying Trudeau's election heralds a new era of co-operation between Toronto, Ottawa and Queen's Park.

"Working together, all three levels of government will achieve results," the mayor said.

> **It's like he's a rock star.**
> An onlooker on Trudeau

While many were hoping Trudeau and Tory would use the event to announce how — and how much of — the Liberals' promised $20 billion in infrastructure investment would flow to Toronto, not everyone was disappointed.

"I'd rather not see a knee-jerk announcement just to fill the void," said Liberal-leaning councillor Josh Matlow. "It means that when an announcement comes, it will be the right one."

For more on Trudeau's Toronto visit, see page 6

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Will England bid goodbye to "God Save the Queen" anthem? **World**

CRIME ARREST MADE AFTER WINDOW SMASHED AT POWERBALL GIVEAWAY BAKERY A man in his 50s was arrested Wednesday morning after the front window of World Class Bakers on St. Clair West was smashed. The bakery was buzzing at the time because it was offering a free Powerball ticket with every purchase over $20. The jackpot sat at an estimated $1.3 billion US ($1.84 billion CDN) — the world's largest ever lottery prize.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tepid forecast for first-time buyers

REAL ESTATE

Home market to slow but still no bargains: Royal LePage

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A major Toronto real estate company is predicting the "frenetic" price growth of Toronto's housing market will slow in 2016 — but not quite enough for many young people dreaming of home ownership to break into the market.

Home prices will continue to rise this year but not as sharply as in recent years, according to a market forecast released Wednesday by Royal LePage.

The 5.5 per cent year-over-year increase the company is predicting, isn't as high as in recent years because prices have outpaced underlying wages and salaries and have become unaffordable to many, said president and CEO Phil Soper.

"It's cyclical," he said. "Homes get a little too expensive, some people step away from the market, and that cools it a little bit."

Often, when the market slows and the rate of price increases slows, a generation of young home buyers finds their first chance to become owners. But, Soper doesn't see that happening this year.

"I wouldn't call the spring of 2016 one of those periods. It will cool, but it won't cool to the point where we see bargains in the marketplace," he said. "For that to happen, we'd have to see an uptick in the cost of borrowing, and I don't see that on the horizon in 2016."

4.1%

Royal LePage expects the average cost of a Canadian home to rise by a more moderate 4.1 per cent over the course of 2016.

Housing prices will remain strong as long as the job market remains strong, attracting people to the city, he said, noting that "Toronto is on a roll."

Toronto's fortunate to have a relatively broad variety of housing and some "relatively affordable" options, like small condos in the centre of the city and lower-priced detached homes in the surrounding areas. People in some cities, like Vancouver, aren't so lucky, he noted.

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Follow in footsteps of Canada's first PM

HISTORY

Tour reveals Sir John A.'s two years in Toronto

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

A new walking tour in Toronto is giving history buffs the chance to retrace the steps of Canada's first prime minister.

Created by Ryerson University history professor Patrice Dutil and students from the school's Radio and Television Arts program, the Sir John A. Macdonald Walking Tour highlights eight sites in and around the University of Toronto that show how the famous politician shaped — and was shaped by — the city.

"He only lived here for two years, but he made the most of it," said Dutil.

Macdonald moved to Toronto from Ottawa after losing the federal election in 1876. Dutil said he came to the city to reconnect with his son, rebuild his finances and find a fresh perspective on politics.

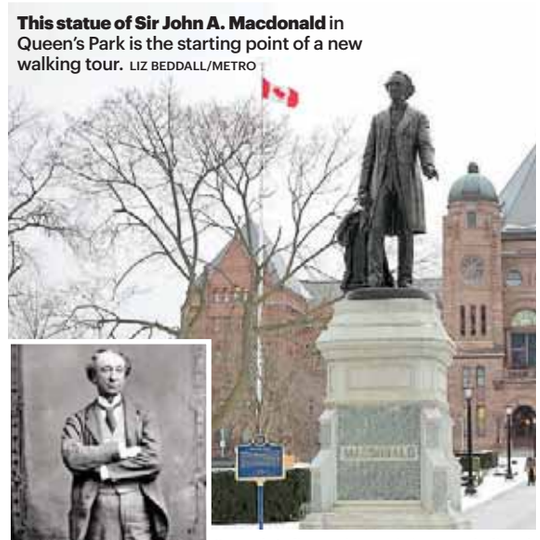
"And Toronto did what it does. It energized him," he said.

Many of the stops show how Macdonald's experiences here influenced his politics and policies. For example, Dutil said a visit to the Women's College Hospital offers a chance to discuss Macdonald's support for women's suffrage.

A stroll down Baldwin Street is an opportunity to talk about Macdonald's tumultuous relationship with Canada's indigenous peoples, including his order to execute Métis leader Louis Riel.

"He's controversial," Dutil said. "But he's still one of the most important men in our history and Toronto owns a piece of him."

More on the walking tour can be found online at the site: sirjohnatorontotour.com



This statue of Sir John A. Macdonald in Queen's Park is the starting point of a new walking tour. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Canada's first prime minister only lived in Toronto two years, **"but he made the most of it,"** says Ryerson University history professor Patrice Dutil. COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

DISPUTE

Leslieville yearns to have yurt back

There is a yurt-shaped hole in Leslieville this winter.

A traditional round Mongolian tent usually stands outside The Ceili Cottage at Queen and Leslie streets each winter.

"It's used to celebrate winter, because that's what we have to deal with in Toronto," said yurt owner and chef Patrick McMurray.

But after three seasons, landlord Sam Ragno spotted the structure and started asking McMurray questions. Mario Angelucci, a deputy chief building official with the City of Toronto, said the yurt complied with all bylaws.

Nearly 200 people signed an online petition demanding the landlord allow the yurt return.

Meanwhile, McMurray loaned the yurt to friend Brad Long, chef and owner at Cafe Belong at the Evergreen Brick Works. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tent flap. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Police close down Allen to probe reports of shooting

The northbound lanes on Allen Road between Hwy. 401 and Eglinton Avenue W. are open after a Toronto police investigation into a reported shooting between two vehicles Wednesday afternoon. The alleged gunfire took place shortly before 4 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. Toronto police shut down the roadway to investigate. They reported finding several shell casings but say they have no suspects or even descriptions of the vehicles involved. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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12927412

‘There’s reason to get excited’

WAITING FOR ‘DREAMY TRUDEAU’

Nicholas Montgomery and Elise Darmanin of Shelfies Clothing show off their Dreamy Trudeau sweater in Nathan Phillips Square on Wednesday. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Even in a gathering of ardent Justin Trudeau fans, Nicholas Montgomery and Elise Darmanin stood out.

The pair sported sweaters emblazoned with an image of the prime minister riding a horse as they waited for his arrival Wednesday in Nathan Phillips Square.

“We’re huge fans of Trudeau,” said Montgomery, who managed to get Trudeau to sign his sweater.

“He’s young, he’s got new ideas and he’s bringing them to the table. He’s someone we can get excited about and Canada can get excited about.”

It wasn’t all about fandom, however. The sweaters are part of Montgomery and Darmanin’s Shelfies clothing brand and can be bought online for $60.

Darmanin said the design is known as the “Dreamy Trudeau.”

“I mean look at him,” she said. “He’s like Prince Charming.” LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

1. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mayor John Tory were full of compliments for one another as they met Wednesday at Toronto City Hall. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO
2. Trudeau shows off his Montreal Canadiens socks as Tory gifts him with a personalized Maple Leafs jersey. @JOHNTORY/TWITTER
3. Trudeau is greeted by Tory outside city hall. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS
4. Trudeau holds a news conference with Tory in the rotunda at Toronto City Hall. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CITY HALL

Smartphone-wielding fans mob Trudeau

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The rotunda at city hall was a sea of smartphones Wednesday, as hundreds of Justin Trudeau fans pushed past one another to get a photo of the new prime minister.

Trudeau arrived in Nathan Phillips Square at about noon, immediately mobbed by media and a throng of onlookers as he prepared for his first sit-down meeting with Mayor John Tory. The prime minister shook hands and took photos with supporters as he slowly made his way inside.

“He’s so charming,” said 18-year-old Shanelle Mullany, as she compared pictures of Trudeau with her friends from the University of Toronto.

“There’s a stigma that politics don’t matter to young people, but with Justin in office, there’s reason to get excited and get more involved,” said Sabrina Rollock.

In a bit of a twist, the loudest cheers for Trudeau came from a large group of taxi drivers inside city hall, who chanted “We love Justin” when the prime minister made his entrance. Amardeep Singh, a driver for Beck Taxi, said he and his colleagues are hopeful that Trudeau will encourage Toronto to better regulate Uber’s ride-hailing service.

According to Tory, more than a few councillors sought out selfies with the Liberal leader.

+ $20M FUNDING

Before arriving at city hall, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced $20 million in federal funding to help establish a stem-cell therapy development facility in Toronto. It will be the first facility in the world to use a collaborative approach between research institutions and industry to solve cell therapy manufacturing challenges, the government said.

One of 5 simple ways to end the stigma around mental illness.

It's not always easy to know how to break the stigma associated with mental illness. Mental health experts suggest 5 easy ways you can help. Here's one way.

Educate yourself

Learn more about mental illnesses and the stigma that surrounds them. Educating yourself about mental illness and how it actually affects those who suffer will help reduce misconceptions and stereotypes. The more you know, the more you can talk about it in a constructive way.

Howie Mandel

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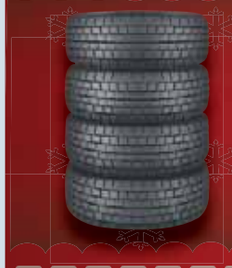

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METRO EXPLAINS THOSE SUBWAY CLOUDS CAN GRATE
It's a common thing on these cold mornings — walking through thick clouds of fog billowing up through sidewalk grates. What exactly makes up the cloudy muck? Metro turned to TTC spokesman Brad Ross for the answer. While the grates can occasionally belch smoke or diesel fumes from the subway if there's work going on below, most of the time they just act as vents, bringing in fresh air for passengers below and allowing heat to escape. PHOTO: LIZ BEDDALL/METRO; TEXT: LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

Councillor targets OMB

PUBLIC MEETING

Matlow rallies support in fight against adjudicator

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A councillor waging a campaign against the Ontario Municipal Board has been hearing "rumours" of its reform — but he's not getting his hopes up too high.

Coun. Josh Matlow is hosting a meeting this month called "Free Toronto from the OMB."

The OMB is the body that adjudicates disputes between developers, Ontario cities and the people who live there about what's built and how. Matlow and other Toronto councillors have long objected to having their decisions overruled.

An OMB decision can mean a development that residents don't like will proceed, even if those residents have convinced their local council it's bad for the neighbourhood and in violation of the official plan.

"Decisions are made by city council about development proposals and they are ignored and overturned by the Ontario Municipal Board, which is an unelected and unaccountable provincially appointed body," Matlow said.

Matlow hopes his meeting will "rally the troops" in the battle against the OMB and he hopes that, after hearing rumours that the provincial government will reform the OMB for some time, now is the time for change.

"These's rumours have been going on for a while, so there's no indication that it will happen tomorrow," he added.

Matlow's meeting is 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 26 at North Toronto Collegiate Institute (17 Broadway Ave.).

"These rumours have been going on for a while."
Coun. Josh Matlow

COLLISION

Wheel-Trans bus injures man, kills dog

A pedestrian was seriously injured and a dog killed when they were struck by a TTC Wheel-Trans bus Wednesday.

The collision occurred around 7:50 a.m. as the man was walking two dogs near the intersection of Kingston Road and Main Street.

Const. Clint Stibbe said the bus appears to have been travelling eastbound when it veered off the roadway, entering the westbound lanes, and jumped the curb.

The Wheel-Trans bus then collided with a hydro pole before hitting a man and his dogs.

Paramedics say the man was transported to a trauma centre in serious to life-threatening condition. His condition later stabilized and later Wednesday, was considered non-life-threatening, police confirmed.

The driver was also taken to hospital for assessment, and police are awaiting classification on his injuries.

It was unclear whether there were passengers aboard the bus.

A police officer took one of the two dogs to a veterinary hospital. The second dog was pinned beneath the vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene.

Stibbe could not confirm whether the TTC vehicle had security cameras aboard, but said this footage could be used to investigate the cause of the crash. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The scene of the crash. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

January 15 - 21

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TREND

Circus training raises bar on fitness

Just ahead of circus artist Andralyn Zayn's debut on the bungee trapeze, she accidentally did a double-front flip straight into the bar.

Doctors didn't diagnose a concussion, so she slathered on enough makeup to hide the cylinder-shaped bump on her forehead.

"There are no breaks, and your body isn't your own," said Marissa Gough, 33, one of Zayn's circus partners.

Gough, Zayn, and her husband, Duane Steel, run Deflying Fitness and travel across Canada and internationally training participants in circus-inspired physical feats for exercise.

Circus-inspired fitness is part of a larger movement with established roots in Canada. A trend including hundreds of circus schools, troops and offshoot ventures emerged from the rising popularity of Cirque du Soleil,

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andralyn Zayn and Marissa Gough show how to do a handstand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Short-term digs for refugees

LOGISTICS

Temporary housing on tap for newcomers

Thousands of Syrian refugees expected in Canada in the coming days could spend up to two weeks in temporary accommodations.

Those conditions will still be better than what people have left behind in Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey, where nearly all of the Syrian refugees coming to Canada are currently living, said Immigration Minister John McCallum.

When the current resettlement program was rolled out in November, the government said incoming refugees would spend a couple of nights in hotels near the airport before transiting on to their final destinations. For those with private sponsors, there would likely be homes ready but what would happen with government-assisted refugees — those whose costs are covered entirely by government — was always a question mark.

Ordinarily, those refugees are welcomed by settlement agencies that run temporary housing facilities, and they stay there for a few weeks before a permanent home is found.

But those organizations had concerns the sheer volume of Syrians would overwhelm facilities, a fear that's now become a reality as the Liberals work towards bringing 25,000 people to Canada by the end of February.

The groups are providing feedback to the government on the beds they have available but at least three military bases are to be mobilized in the coming weeks to help house people.

Though government-organized flights of refugees will continue to land almost daily, the government's focus is now shifting to how to ensure the newly arrived are settling in as well as they can once those permanent homes are found.

Along with housing challenges, there is the reality of weaving thousands into new communities.

Ordinarily, refugees are given extensive predeparture briefings on life in Canada, from the weather to bank machines, but those efforts were jettisoned to get people here faster. So all of that needs to be done now.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$50M

Target contribution from corporations sought by Immigration Minister John McCallum to help with settlement costs. Of that figure, $20 million has already been raised.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOLERANCE

Pepper-spray attack victim still grateful

Ahmad Hwichan grimaces as he talks about coughing up blood and hearing children screaming in the aftermath of last week's pepper-spray attack in Vancouver.

The newly arrived government-sponsored refugee from Syria was one of about a dozen people sprayed by a man on a bicycle outside a welcome ceremony 10:30 p.m. on Friday.

Despite the suffering, the incident has failed to temper the enthusiasm and gratitude Hwichan and other refugees feel toward their adopted country and its citizens.

"This doesn't change my point of view of Canada. It will never change," Hwichan said through a translator on Tuesday, four days after the attack. "I love you Canada so much."

The pepper spraying prompted universal condemnation from political leaders, including Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, B.C. Premier Christy Clark and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan.

Syrian refugee Youssef Ahmad al-Suleiman, also hit, recounted how he and his fellow newcomers were stunned after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took to Twitter and apologized.

"We're not used to this back home in our own country," al-Suleiman said. "(Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad killed around 300,000 people and did not apologize once."

Al-Suleiman recalled a man cycle up to their group outside a Muslim Association of Canada centre. The man sprayed something once or twice toward the crowd and quickly left, he said. Vancouver police spokesman Sgt. Randy Fincham has said Friday's incident is being investigated as a hate crime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugees Ahmad Hwichan, centre, and his sons Louai, left, 11, and Qusai, right, 8, at a Vancouver hotel they're living in temporarily. **Ahmad was with a group of other newcomers at a welcoming ceremony Friday when a man on a bike pepper-sprayed them.** DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Suicide bomber a refugee

TURKEY

Syrian who attacked tourists had ties to ISIL

The suicide attacker who detonated a bomb that killed 10 German tourists in the heart of Istanbul's historic district had registered as a refugee just a week earlier, Turkish officials said Wednesday, raising questions over whether extremists are posing as asylum-seekers to inflame anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe.

Turkish authorities identified the assailant in Tuesday's attack as a Syrian man who was born in 1988, and said he was affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Turkish media, including some close to the government, identified him as Nabil Fadli and said he was Saudi-born. The extremist group has not so far claimed the attack.

Meanwhile, Turkish police arrested five people suspected of direct links to the bomb attack which took place just steps from the historic Blue Mosque in Istanbul's storied Sultanahmet district. The suspects were not identified.

The bomber had recently entered Turkey, authorities said, and Interior Minister Efkan Ala confirmed reports he had registered with an Istanbul branch of the Migration Management Authority, providing fingerprints that allowed officials to quickly identify him. Ala said the bomber wasn't on any Turkish or international watch lists for ISIL militants.

"This person was not someone who was being monitored," Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said.

"It is a person who entered normally, as a refugee, as an asylum-seeker."

The attack wounded 15 people, including nine Germans and citizens of Norway, Peru and South Korea. Six of the victims remained hospitalized on Wednesday.

Although not as deadly as two attacks in Turkey last year that were blamed on ISIL, Tuesday's bombing had heightened resonance because it struck at Turkey's $30 billion tourism industry, which has already suffered from a steep decline.

> **This person was not someone who was being monitored.**
> Turkish PM Ahmet Davutoglu

The fact that the bomber had registered as a Syrian refugee suggests central planning by ISIL leaders, either to cover their tracks or provoke a backlash in Europe against legitimate Syrian asylum-seekers, said Firas Abi-Ali, an analyst with the security consultancy IHS Country Risk.

"It seems to make it less likely this was anything but a centrally commanded operation by the Islamic State," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRENCH ATTACKS

Paris café reopens its doors

With the blood and bullets now swept away, the Carillon café reopened its doors Wednesday for the first time since it was among the Paris sites targeted by Islamic extremists in November.

The French capital is trying to revive tourism and commerce after the attacks that cost 130 lives and cast a shadow of fear over the city. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Patrons sit on the terrace of the Carillon café, one of sites of the Nov. 13 terror attacks in Paris that killed 15 people.

2 People gather outside the Carillon café on Wednesday — its reopening day.

3 A barman serves drinks to patrons at the café.

ALL PHOTOS: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NATIONAL IDENTITY

U.K. to debate fate of God Save the Queen

British lawmakers agreed Wednesday to consider replacing the royalist song that serves as England's anthem at sporting events.

"God Save the Queen" is the national anthem of the United Kingdom — made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — and is played at the Olympics and other events where the U.K. fields a single team.

At contests where the four areas compete separately, such as the soccer World Cup, England and Northern Ireland use "God Save the Queen," but Scotland and Wales have their own official songs — "Flower of Scotland" and "Land of My Fathers."

Labour Party lawmaker Toby Perkins said adopting an English anthem would "re-establish the idea that the United Kingdom is a union of four separate nations with their own identities."

Prince William sings God Save the Queen in September 2015.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Perkins told the House of Commons that "Jerusalem," regarded by many as England's unofficial anthem, was the most obvious choice.

The song, whose words are by mystical 18th-century poet William Blake, vows to transform a country of "dark satanic mills" into a "green and pleasant land" like the ancient England that, legend says, was once visited by Jesus Christ.

Opposing the motion, traditionalist Conservative legislator Jacob Rees-Mogg said an English anthem would divide Britain.

"What greater pleasure can there be for a true-born Englishman or true-born Englishwoman than to listen to our own national anthem?" Rees-Mogg said.

Lawmakers agreed to hold a full House of Commons debate in March on Perkins' bill, which calls on the government to consult the public on a new anthem. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Loonie closes below 70¢
The Canadian dollar has closed below 70 cents U.S. for the first time in nearly 13 years. The loonie finished Wednesday at 69.71 cents U.S. The last time it closed this low was on April 30, 2003, when it was 69.76 cents US.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Al Jazeera America says it is shutting down
Cable news network Al Jazeera America says it will stop operating by April 30 just 2-1/2 years after its launch in August 2013. While it won some awards, not many people watched the channel.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Postmedia to cut costs faster and deeper
Postmedia Network Canada Corp. is accelerating and hiking its goal to cut costs as it continues to bleed advertising, print circulation and digital media revenue. It is aiming for cost reductions of $80 million by mid-2017 — up from $50 million in cuts by the end of 2017.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMMUNICATIONS

Corus buying Shaw's media division in deal worth $2.65B

Shaw Communications is selling its media division to Corus Entertainment for $2.65 billion — a deal that will help fund the telecom company's purchase of Wind Mobile.

Shaw Media includes the Global Television network and 19 specialty channels including HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada and Showcase — formerly part of the Canwest business group before it was split up.

Corus already owns a number of other specialty TV channels as well as a network of radio stations and the Nelvana animation studio.

Both companies are controlled by the Shaw family through its voting shares. Shaw Communications will become a large shareholder in Corus as a result of the deal, which involves both cash and shares.

It's the second major deal for Shaw Communications in recent weeks. It announced on Dec. 16 that it's buying Wind Mobile for $1.6 billion.

After the deal closes, Shaw Communications will own about 39 per cent of the equity in Corus. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Corus Entertainment will acquire the Global Television network and 19 specialty channels including HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada and Showcase when it closes its deal to buy Shaw's media division. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Join the club, share a room

SHARING ECONOMY

Service offers travellers option to split hotel cost

Want to stay at a five-star hotel in Los Angeles or San Francisco for half-price?

You can, but the only catch is you would have to share it with a stranger.

Welcome to Winston Club, a new website that launches service in March, taking the sharing economy to its literal sense.

"We are catering to travellers, often those who are self-funded, who enjoy the comforts of a four- or five-star hotel, but are looking for a more economical price point," said Bryon Shannon, founder and CEO of the Seattle startup.

It plans to start in five cities on the U.S. west coast including Seattle, Portland and Las Vegas with a dozen hotels, though every room will have two beds, so there shouldn't be any scenes from the movie Planes, Trains and Automobiles.

Shannon concedes the idea of sharing a hotel room with a stranger is not for everyone, but argues people are more willing to try new things these days. "Companies in the sharing economy had a little bit of pushback initially. With Uber it was jumping into a car, or with Airbnb, it's staying in a stranger's home," he said.

Winston Club acts like a travel agent, booking rooms with hotels, and taking a commission from the hotel. "No hotel likes to have vacant rooms," he said. "This way, they get to sell more rooms at full price."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

5
The number of cities in which Winston Club will operate on the U.S. west coast including Seattle, Portland and Las Vegas.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, January 14, 2016

THE BIG NUMBER

42%

The decrease since 2004 in the proportion of Canadians who use cocaine or crack, according to Health Canada.

The crack epidemic in North American cities during the 1980s and '90s lined the pockets of Latin American drug lords such as El Chapo and Pablo Escobar because nearly all of the world's coca leaves (cocaine's raw material) are grown in Colombia, Bolivia and Peru. But for well over a decade now, cocaine has been losing its cool factor. In 2004, 1.9 per cent of Canadians said they'd used some form of cocaine in the past 12 months, but by 2012, the last year for which data is available, only 1.1 per cent said so. Although the war on drugs, and its accompanying crackdown on trafficking, likely had something to do with this, experts believe cocaine just kind of went out of style in addition to getting much more expensive relative to other drugs. Canadians are still getting high en masse, but more are popping prescription pills than packing crack pipes — although with marijuana soon to be legal, our habits may be about to shift again.

SOURCE: CANADIAN ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE MONITORING SURVEY

Sweeping, secretive air travel policy doesn't fly

Faisal Kutty and **Mustafa Jilani**

In the wake of the six-year-old caught in Canada's no-fly web, the government has promised to examine changes to the program. "(It's) no fault of their own," says Ralph Goodale, the minister of public safety, adding that false positives "can present an awkward situation" and "a feeling of stigma."

Awkwardness and stigma may not quite fully convey the extent of the impact for the hundreds or thousands on the list and those with similar names. Lost jobs, separation from family, fear, anxiety and uncertainty are all too real.

Over the years, many have been caught in limbo.

The program introduced in 2007 created the Specified Persons Advisory Group (SPAG), which identified individuals who posed an "immediate threat" for inclusion on the Specified Persons List, which airlines are mandated to screen against. Once flagged, a Transport Canada official could authorize boarding, request extra screening or issue an "emergency direction" to prevent boarding.

A denied person could apply to the Office of Reconsideration. However, as evident from court documents in the Hani Al Telbani case, the office's power is only illusory. The office concluded that CSIS relied on "vague and incomplete" information and had no basis to add Al Telbani. The SPAG ignored the recommendation and kept him on the list.

Over the years many have been caught in limbo. Lauren Kinney, director general of aviation security at Transport Canada, testified to a 2010 parliamentary committee that there were about 850 false positives within the first three years.

Rather than addressing concerns, the Secure Air Travel Act (part of the anti-terror legislation passed last year) exacerbated them. It authorized the establishment of a list of people who the government has reasonable grounds to suspect will, with or without intent, threaten transportation security or commit a terror offence. This, along with other changes ushered in by SATA, ensured the list would quickly grow.

The new anti-terror legislation will also make it more difficult for anyone caught up in the no-fly list to find recourse. Under the new law, such a person must apply directly to the minister of public safety within 60 days to challenge a listing. This is akin to having the fox guard the henhouse.

Ironically, as the U.S. eases up on its own lists in response to civil-rights lawsuits, the Canadian list is becoming more secretive, sweeping and less accountable.

Watch lists may serve a limited legitimate function, but they must be used cautiously. The government's appeal to national security should not exempt it from accountability, oversight and a meaningful redress mechanism.

Faisal Kutty is counsel to KSM Law in Toronto and an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall law school. **Mustafa Jilani** is an associate at KSM Law.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If El Chapo's devotion surprises you, it shouldn't.

If you slogged through Sean Penn's at times unintelligible ode to drug kingpin El Chapo in Rolling Stone magazine, you perhaps know a few more things than you used to.

Penn loves his own penis. Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera — or El Chapo, the world's most powerful drug trafficker — has charisma as well as the blood of thousands of Mexicans on his hands. And he believes in God.

In the interview, such as it was, El Chapo recounts asking God for help escaping from prison (he's since been recaptured). He thanks God that his mother is still alive and says he wants to be with his family for "the days God gives me."

If this devotion comes as a surprise to you — as it did to some — it shouldn't.

Drug traffickers across Latin America are typically religious, and Catholic, like just about all their neighbours.

"Latin America is the most Christian region on earth," says R. Andrew Chesnut, chair in Catholic studies at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and an expert on Latin American religious history. Ninety per cent of Latin Americans are Christians, and 40 per cent of the world's Catholics live in Latin America, he says.

It is Colombian traffickers who exported St. Jude — the patron saint of lost causes — to Mexico, where he's now widely popular, Chesnut says.

Traffickers' faith is "not so much about Christian morality," he says. Since the threat of death is everywhere, divine protection "is the most important function of both the Catholic and folk saints popular among narcos."

That creates a fraught relationship, to say the least. On one hand, Latin American churches have been accused of money laundering, via cartels' donations or "narcolimosnas." Meanwhile, a slew of priests who publicly oppose drug cartels have been murdered in recent years.

Then there are folk saints, most notably Santa Muerte, figures not recognized by the Catholic Church but wildly popular among traffickers.

Saint Death is also known as a healer, a miracle worker and agent of prosperity, says Chesnut, who wrote a book on her. "If you're looking at narcos in Mexico, the most important religious figure for them is Santa Muerte."

That has made her "Religious Enemy No. 1" to the Mexican government, he adds, and a challenge to the church, too. But fighting the spread of beliefs is as hard as fighting the spread of drugs.

As for God's guiding hand in El Chapo's life, I imagine, in the drug lord's familiar old place behind bars, he's got a bone to pick with the Almighty.

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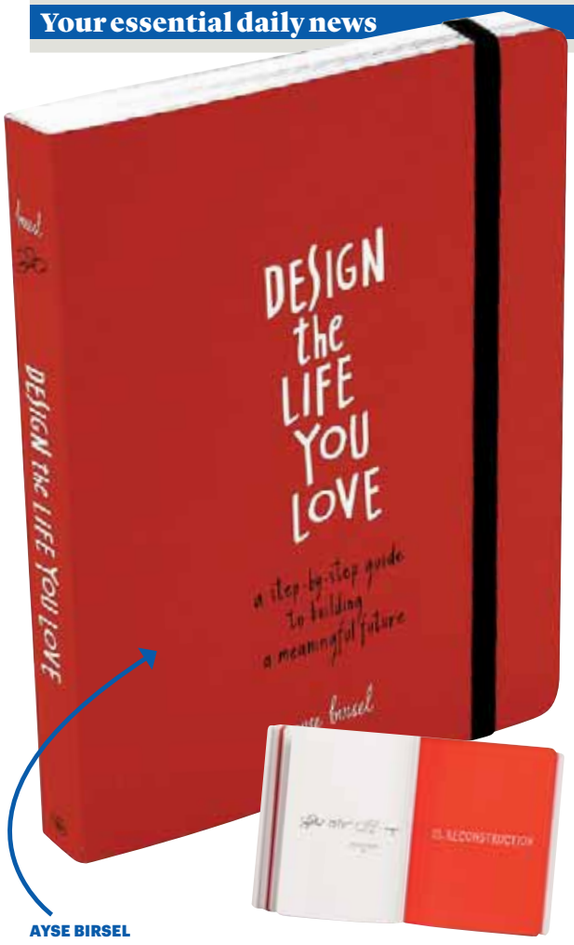
Whole new chapter

This is the time of the year to pull up your socks and be a better you. Here are books to inspire: physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



AYSE BIRSEL

Design the Life You Love

Ayse Birsel is the creative director and principal of Birsel + Seck, the New York design studio she founded with her husband, Bibi Seck. Her book is a beautifully designed self-help manual filled with words (hand-printed by the author) and pictures (doodles, drawings, cartoons and comic strip/graphic novel panels, vision maps and other creative tools) that is fun to flip through and filled with creative ideas for designing your best life possible. In her introduction, Birsel says the workbook (she prefers, "playbook" to put the emphasis on fun) represents the "intersection of my design process, Deconstruction Reconstruction, and my biggest project, my life."

DANIEL KLEIN

Every Time I Find the Meaning of Life, They Change It

Daniel Klein's new book began as a notebook titled Pithies, and contained thoughts from history's great philosophers. As a young man he hoped these notes on "how to live the best life" would offer direction. As an old man, he finds the quest useful, and expands on his long-ago pithies in hopes of helping others.

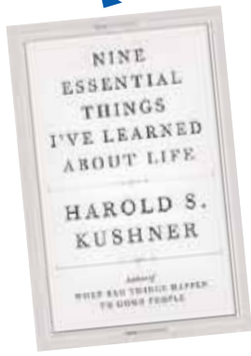
YONI FREEDHOFF

The Diet Fix: Why Diets Fail and How to Make Yours Work

What would a new year be without a resolution to lose weight? It isn't so much a diet book as an anti-diet book. Yoni Freedhoff, an Ottawa doctor, examines why 90 per cent of diets fail, and offers common sense help with a 10-Day Reset that he says can change your relationship with food forever. Tall order. Nothing else has worked, so this might be worth a try.

HAROLD S. KUSHNER

Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life



Harold S. Kushner, an American rabbi, is the author of 1978's memorable When Bad Things Happen To Good People and his subsequent books have similarly dealt with faith's thornier questions. He writes for a general audience — which is to say you don't have to be Jewish to gain spiritual sustenance from what he has to say. His chapter titles draw you in.

WHOOPI GOLDBERG

If Someone Says, "You Complete Me," RUN!

Whoopi Goldberg has been married three times and had several other non-wedlock unions. She has concluded that finding the One isn't for her. So what can she tell us about managing a relationship? Plenty. Over 16 chapters, the actress, comedian and TV moderator, navigates the shoals of being with another.

NEW FROM THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR KELLEY ARMSTRONG

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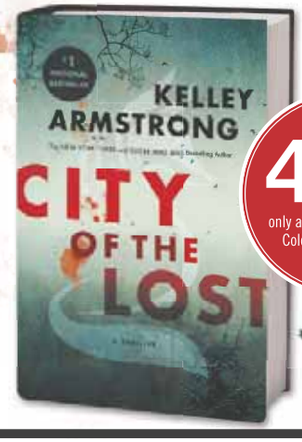

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Teenage rebellion with a red streak

RED STAR TATTOO

Larsen pens memoir about being teenage revolutionary

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

From James Dean to Justin Bieber, rebellion has always been part of the teenage experience. Usually, it's no more dramatic than cutting the occasional math class or stealing a bottle from the liquor cabinet. But for Sonja Larsen, rebellion meant joining a radical left-wing political party and becoming the youngest member of its militia, an astonishing experience she chronicles in her new memoir, Red Star Tattoo: My Life as a Girl Revolutionary, published by Random House Canada.

Mind you, Larsen did not come from the most conventional family. She spent many of her formative years living in communes with her hippie parents, where sex and drugs were far from taboo, and Larsen was encouraged to make all her own decisions. Now 50 years old, Larsen acknowledges that some readers will think her parents were neglectful, but in hindsight, she views the situation differently.

"In the moment it was pretty empowering to be able to chose what I wanted to do, and to express myself," she says. "In the long run, my relationship with my parents was a sustaining force in that respect they had for me. They let me speak my mind and pursue the things I wanted to."

One thing that 16-year-old Larsen wanted to pursue on her own was moving to New York to join the National Labor Organization, a secret group preparing for the second American Revolution, led by the charismatic Gino Perente, known as the "Old Man." Larsen would soon become a mistress to Perente (later discovered to be a lifelong con man), which isn't even the most shocking situation that she would find herself in.

For years, Larsen, who is now a youth worker on Vancouver's tough downtown Eastside, didn't share her past with friends, joking that "those stories are a bit hard to just drop into cocktail conversation. Let's talk about the year I didn't go outside."

She always knew that she wanted to write, but her own story felt like a giant obstacle. It wasn't until she turned 40 that it felt like a "now or never" situation. "It really felt like if I started writing, I was going to write that story, and I wasn't sure, up until then, that I was ready," she says. "It would mean revealing a lot of other people's secrets and just being quite exposed and disloyal."

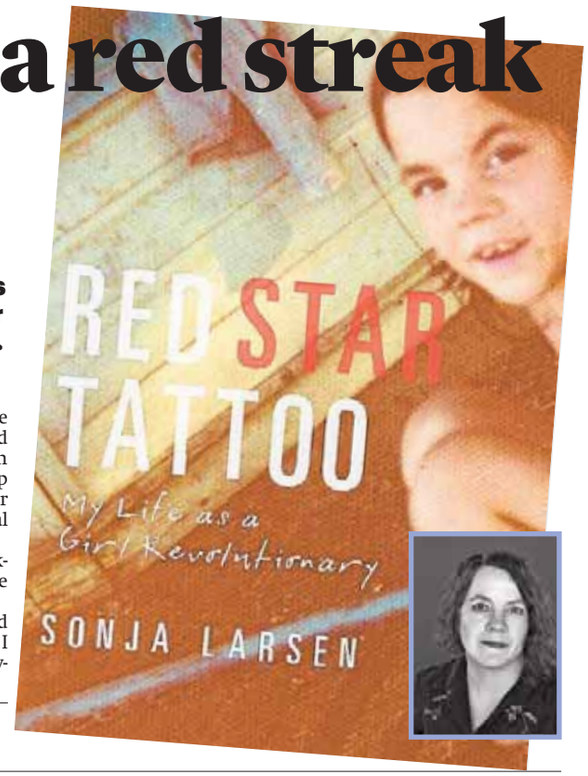
When she finally realized she needed to write to be happy, the biggest challenge Larsen faced was how to tell her story. In the end, she decided to keep it simple, a chronology of her early life told through personal memories.

"I didn't want to tell it backwards with the insight I have now," she says.

"I wanted to tell it forward as the kid and the person that I was then, trying to figure everything out."

"Those stories are a bit hard to just drop into cocktail conversation. Let's talk about the year I didn't go outside."
Sonja Larsen

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



3 BOOKS LOVED BY SAVING HOPE STAR

Julia Taylor Ross, Star of CTV's Saving Hope shares her thoughts on the books that have influenced her the most.

Saving Hope airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. on CTV and the CTV GO app.

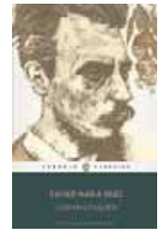
James and the Giant Peach

James and the Giant Peach is one of the earliest books I remember being read to me and then reading myself. I, like many children, adored Roald Dahl and his dark, twisted, whimsical writing. James is the story of a lost, sad young boy who flies aboard a giant magical peach to New York City, away from his evil aunts. On his journey he makes the (greatest) friends of his life. This book is about finding your community, the power of imagination and the hope of a better life. And, of course, fruit!

Light Years

James Salter died this year and many people are now realizing what an undercelebrated writer he was during his lifetime. This book is about a marriage that spans several decades. It is romantic, devastating, heart-wrenchingly honest, dazzling in its visual descriptions and so sophisticated in its phrasing. The novel is set in upstate New York by the Hudson River — a place that I find very magical and that holds many fond memories for me personally. It probably has the highest number of dog-eared passages of any of the novels I have read, and has the most poetic descriptions of food and drink.

Letters to a Young Poet



I can imagine this is on many peoples' favourite books lists. It's a treasure of collected letters that span five years, sent by the poet to a 19-year-old fan. I return to it over and over again when I need advice about the creative life — how to survive it and grow in it, as well as to read about how to be a quality human. If you're a friend of mine and haven't read it, you have probably already received it from me as a gift, because that is what it is. A gift.

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BAD MOVIES

Pixels, Jupiter Ascending share lead with six nods each

Fifty Shades of Grey is all tied up with Pixels, Jupiter Ascending and Paul Blart Mall Cop 2 for the most nominations at this year's Golden Raspberry Awards celebrating the worst in cinema.

The films led the Razzies line-up Wednesday with six nods each, including worst picture and worst actor for Jamie Dornan in the sexy thriller Fifty Shades of Grey, Kevin James in the comedy sequel Paul Blart Mall Cop 2, Channing Tatum in the sci-fi film Jupiter Ascending and Adam Sandler in the video game mash-up Pixels and fantasy-comedy The Cobbler.

The other worst picture nominee is the superhero flop Fantastic Four, which is also up for worst remake, screen combo, director for Josh Trank and screenplay for Simon Kinberg, Jeremy Slater and Trank.

Channing Tatum vies for worst actor for his role in Jupiter Ascending. HANDOUT

The announcement of the Razzies, which launched in 1980 as a spoof of Hollywood's awards season, comes ahead of Thursday's Oscar nominations. The "winners" for the 36th annual Razzies will be announced Feb. 27, the night before the 88th annual Academy Awards. They will be selected by 900 voting members from 47 states in the United States and 21 foreign countries.

While far less star-studded than other award shows, past recipients such as Halle Berry and Sandra Bullock, have actually shown up in person to claim their gold spray-painted prizes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan both earned nominations for Fifty Shades of Grey. HANDOUT

Paul Blart Mall Cop 2 ties for most Razzie nods. HANDOUT

THE NOMINEES ARE...

- **Worst picture:** Fantastic Four, Fifty Shades of Grey, Jupiter Ascending, Paul Blart Mall Cop 2, Pixels.
- **Worst actor:** Johnny Depp, Mortdecai; Jamie Dornan, Fifty Shades of Grey; Kevin James, Paul Blart Mall Cop 2; Adam Sandler, The Cobbler and Pixels; Channing Tatum, Jupiter Ascending.
- **Worst actress:** Katherine Heigl, Home Sweet Hell; Dakota Johnson, Fifty Shades of Grey; Mila Kunis, Jupiter Ascending; Jennifer Lopez, The Boy Next Door; Gwyneth Paltrow, Mortdecai.
- **Worst supporting actor:** Chevy Chase, Hot Tub Time Machine 2 and Vacation; Josh Gad, Pixels and The Wedding Ringer; Kevin James, Pixels; Jason Lee, Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road Chip; Eddie Redmayne, Jupiter Ascending.
- **Worst supporting actress:** Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting, Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road Chip and The Wedding Ringer; Rooney Mara, Pan; Michelle Monaghan, Pixels; Julianne Moore, Seventh Son; Amanda Seyfried, Love the Coopers and Pan.

Adam Sandler is nominated in two categories. HANDOUT

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Hurley a natural as bawdy queen

THE SHOW: The Royals, Season 1 Episode 6, (E, Crave)
THE MOMENT: The Command

Helena, Queen of England (Elizabeth Hurley), resplendent in a form-fitting peach lace dress, is upbraiding her new bodyguard in her boudoir. A lower-class American, he lied about his background. (And recently stopped having blackmail sex with her daughter, Princess Eleanor. But Helena is blithely unconcerned about that.)

"You've caught me on a good day, Bodyguard," Hurley says, in tones plummier than a plum tree. "I'm melancholy. I'm stressed. And I'm severely horny. Think you have what it takes to earn my silence?" He unknots his tie. "Don't let's get ahead of ourselves," she says. "Are you familiar with the expression, 'At Her Majesty's pleasure'?" She hikes up her hem, spreads her thighs. He kneels.

Not unlike dear Bodyguard, this show is groin-deep in drugs and diamonds, fascinators and G-rated filth. In our age of political correctness, it revels in the phrase "spoiled rotten." The characters cannot behave badly enough. The princess is a fashion-plate junkie. The King's brother is a leering, polymorphously perverse ascot wearer. The prince and his bland American girlfriend are "good," and therefore extremely dull; their storyline exists only to be fast-forwarded through.

But the show is Hurley, and she's a royal hoot. At least three times per episode, she announces that she's the Queen of England: "I'm the Queen of England, damn it!" "The Queen of England can't take time off to grieve." "But you're not the Queen of England, are you? I am!" Hurley was born for this role. Even her lip gloss shimmers with glee.

Elizabeth Hurley as Helena, Queen of England, in The Royals. CONTRIBUTED

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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The market forecast for 2016

CONDO TRENDS

Experts share what they see for housing this year

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

Two weeks into 2016, and the real estate market is already set to ramp up for the spring sales cycle. The experts weigh in on what you can expect in the GTA market over the coming months.

Not-so last year

According to David Fleming, a Realtor with Bosley Real Estate, "What we're seeing, specifically in the first couple weeks of January, is all the relists, all the stuff that didn't sell in the fall."

But hang on to your hats. "The spring market is six months, January through to the end of June. So it's very busy consistently." he says.

Recently, interest rates have been very much on the minds of homeowners.

Although low rates have been a boon to the economy, aimed at stimulating investment and household spending, the concern is that even a slight increase in rates could have an adverse effect on mortgage holders.

Single-family homes, like the Hampshire Mews development in Richmond Hill, are still very much in demand. CONTRIBUTED

But according to Fleming, it's not in the cards, with two rate cuts last year that caught most analysts off-guard.

"I don't expect a rate increase and even if it did go up, I think you'd have to see a full 100-basis-point increase in the five-year fixed rate to really see any effect on the market." he says.

Optimism abounds

Toronto Real Estate Board economist Jason Mercer is optimistic that the robust condo market will continue into the new year.

"The way we ended the year, the condo market actually remained quite strong. Even though over the last two to three years we've seen a lot of new projects reach a completion phase, along with that we've certainly seen an uptick in condo apartment listings on TREB's MLS system."

%

Experts predict that interest rates will remain low.

Many predicted an oversupply of condo inventory going into 2016.

"We're still seeing condominium apartments priced well above the rate of inflation, in stark contrast to the glut in supply and decline in prices that some people were forecasting." says Mercer.

Single-family still in demand

Look for continued demand for single-family homes, especially in the downtown core, which is to be expected in North America's fourth largest metropolis, says Ralph Fox, a broker with Sage Real Estate.

"If you look at any major city in the world, for most people home ownership isn't even on the radar. If you're living in Manhattan, you're living in Paris, it's not even possible. Here it's still possible. But I think over time, the possibility is going to continue to dwindle. Even when it comes to the condo side."

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

A successful renovation starts with a careful plan

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

Renovating a home is a process that requires careful consideration and preparation.

The first step in a successful renovation is understanding why you are renovating.

If you are renovating to improve the value of your home, focus on the areas of the home that offer the most payback. These include the kitchen, bathroom, floors, roof, doors and windows.

Find a renovator early so they can guide you through the renovation process. Many projects require building permits, which is a complex process that can take several months. A professional renovator will know what permits are needed and how to get them.

Some renovations require architectural or design services while others require an engineer. Such services are necessary to obtain building permits and should be factored into your budget. Your renovator will know what services you need and give you a pretty good idea of what the rough costs of the project would be.

When it comes to budgeting, set aside 10 to 15 per cent of the project cost as contingency. Changes during the process are not uncommon, and they can impact the cost and timing of the job. Just make sure you and your renovator agree on how potential changes will are handled.

Outlining your goals before you start is the key to being able to sit down and enjoy the fruits of your labour later. ISTOCK

A detailed written contract is vital to a successful renovation, and a sign you are working with a true professional. Your contract should clearly outline the scope of work, project timelines, payment schedules, warranties and how to handle any changes.

Professional renovators also have legitimate business licenses, are insured and offer warranties on their work. They regularly attend educational seminars and courses to stay ahead of the curve and keep their knowledge and skills up to date.

A great resource to find professional renovators is renomark.ca. The website includes a searchable database of companies across the GTA who abide by a renovation-specific Code of Conduct. This includes offering a minimum two-year warranty, having liability insurance and providing a detailed written contract for all work.

A number of Renomark renovators will be volunteering at the GTA Home and Reno Show, which takes place Feb. 12-15 at the International Centre in Mississauga. They will be offering free renovation advice at the Destination Renovation booth, which is BILD's feature exhibit at the show.

You can buy tickets to the Show at gtahomeandrenoshow.com, and use the METRO1 promo code to save $5 off the regular purchase price.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

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Running back Marshawn Lynch is back at practice but the Seahawks wouldn't confirm that he'll play Sunday against the Panthers

Jackets pile on Leafs' goal-scoring sorrow

NHL

Buds have scored just twice in past three games

Maple Leafs goaltender James Reimer makes a save in front of teammate Martin Marincin and the Blue Jackets' Jared Boll on Wednesday night. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rookie Joonas Korpisalo made 41 saves as the last-place Columbus Blue Jackets snapped a four-game losing skid with a 3-1 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Wednesday.

Korpisalo, 21, entered with just one win in six starts this season and was carrying a 3.69 goals-against average and .882 save percentage.

Boone Jenner, Alexander Wennberg and Brandon Dubinsky scored for the Blue Jackets (16-25-4).

Brad Boyes scored for the Maple Leafs (16-18-7), who have just two goals in their past three outings — all losses.

Toronto's James Reimer stopped 19 of 21 shots in defeat.

Nazem Kadri had Toronto's first good opportunity to score while on the power play but wasn't able to beat Korpisalo on the blocker side from the slot early in the game.

Columbus opened the scoring when Jenner tipped a Seth Jones point shot from the high slot past Reimer at 15:08 of the first period.

Rene Bourque had a great chance to double his club's lead before the first ended, but was turned away on a breakaway by a sprawling Reimer.

WEDNESDAY At ACC

3	1
JACKETS	LEAFS

Toronto held the lead in shots 6-0 to start the game before William Karlsson put the first one on net for Columbus at 7:03. The Maple Leafs took a 10-8 shot advantage into the first intermission and were up 25-17 after 40 minutes.

The action picked up in the second after a slow opening period and Korpisalo was forced to make two big saves midway through. Columbus made it 2-0 late in the period when Toronto couldn't get the puck out of its own end and Scott Hartnell took control of it behind the Leafs net. Reimer stopped Justin Falk's point shot but couldn't corral the rebound and Wennberg was able to put it home on the backhand at 16:17.

Boyes put Toronto on the board with 2:27 to play in the third, with Reimer on the bench for a sixth attacker, but Dubinsky added an empty netter in the final seconds to seal the two points. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WORKPLACE REVIEW

COC to implement recommendations

The Canadian Olympic Committee says it will implement all of the recommendations from a third-party workplace review of its handling of the Marcel Aubut affair.

Aubut stepped down as COC president last year after women accused him of sexual harassment.

A report from employment law experts Rubin Thomlinson identified gaps in the area of human resources systems and processes and recommends widespread changes to the COC to "significantly strengthen workplace policies, procedures, and governance." THE CANADIAN PRESS

SAFETY

The COC Board says it has approved the hiring of senior and designated human resources leadership to ensure a safe and healthy environment.

IN BRIEF

Young arson survivor invited to meet Ronaldo

Real Madrid said Wednesday that it has invited a young Palestinian boy who is the sole survivor of a West Bank arson attack last summer to visit the team and meet star player Cristiano Ronaldo.

The five-year-old boy is still recovering in an Israeli hospital from the July 31 fire that killed his 18-month-old brother and their parents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA fires secretary general

FIFA has fired Jerome Valcke for the second time, cutting ties with the secretary general four months after he was suspended while under investigation for wrongdoing at the scandal-scarred governing body. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former CFL star found dead in his prison cell

Former CFL and NFL running back Lawrence Phillips was found dead in his California prison cell early Wednesday, and officials said they suspect suicide.

The 40-year-old had been in segregation since April 2013 after he was suspected of killing his cellmate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks demote Higgins after he clears waivers

Vancouver Canucks forward Chris Higgins cleared waivers Wednesday and was assigned to the Utica Comets of the American Hockey League.

The Canucks placed Higgins on waivers Tuesday, two days after the team released a statement stating it was actively trying to trade him. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Murray becoming a big ticket

NCAA BASKETBALL

Canadian point guard leaving nothing to luck at Kentucky

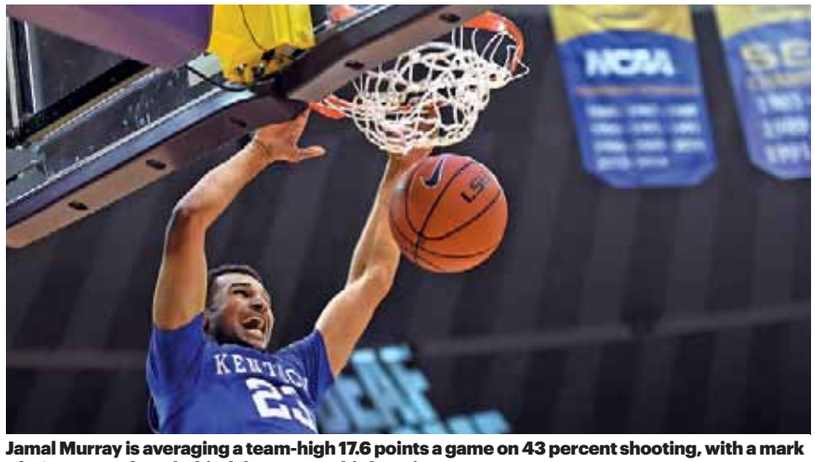
The night before Canadian teenager Jamal Murray led the Kentucky Wildcats to their 13th win of the season, coach John Calipari had the team over to his house.

He handed each player a ticket for Wednesday's record-setting $1.5-billion US Powerball lottery — they each coughed up the $2 ticket price — and then asked them if they knew what the odds were of hitting the jackpot.

"It's 292.2 million to one," Calipari told them. "'That ticket is not a winner. You're not winning with that ticket.'

"I then said 'You already own a ticket. YOU. It may be 50/50 that you hit the lottery, or 70/30. But you have to fight, you have to want it. You have the ticket."'

Calipari's lesson wasn't lost on Murray. The 18-year-old freshman from Kitchener, Ont., would go out a night later and lift Kentucky to an 80-74 win over Mississippi State, scoring a game-high 22 points in front of some 23,500 fans — and more than a dozen NBA scouts — at Rupp Arena.



Jamal Murray is averaging a team-high 17.6 points a game on 43 percent shooting, with a mark of 50 per cent from behind the arc over his last six games. STACY REVERE/GETTY IMAGES

"It made a lot of sense, and it kind of put things into perspective of what I want to do with my career and what direction I want to go," said Murray after Tuesday's game.

"I look at my opportunity that I have here, playing at one of the best colleges not just in America but the world, having a chance to come to a new country and show what I have ... I'm just trying to make the most of my opportunity."

Murray is Canadian basketball's next big thing.

He was one of Canada's best players at last summer's Pan Am Games, particularly in a 111-108 semifinal win over the U.S. Scoreless through three quarters, Murray took over in the fourth and overtime, exploding for 22 points.

Three months earlier, he scored 30 points to earn MVP at the Nike Hoop Summit, which pits the best high schoolers in the U.S. against their international counterparts.

His scoring ability is one of his biggest strengths.

"He can do it in a lot of different ways," said Jonathan Givony of DraftExpress, which has Murray going ninth on their most recent 2016 mock draft. "He's not the most explosive guy but he finds ways to finish with his skill and with his intelligence, using floaters, and off-balance, off-hand finishes, off the wrong foot ... all that Steve Nash stuff that the young guys are really studying today."

College commitments kept Murray out of last summer's Olympic qualifiers and Givony thinks his absence could cost Canada a spot in Rio.

Murray also possesses an enviable mental strength, honed over years working with his dad Roger, a big believer in martial arts. Murray meditates before he steps on the floor. He says his "mental kung fu"can lower his heart rate during games.

282

Murray is now the highest scorer (282 points) through 16 games in the John Calipari era at Kentucky.

"He's very in touch with the mental side of the game," said Tony McIntyre, a founder of CIA Bounce, the Toronto-based AAU program with alumni such as Andrew Wiggins, Anthony Bennett and Tyler Ennis.

"His training and his workouts are more difficult than any game is going to be for him, and I think he has that confidence that he can do almost what he wants when he wants. He's got that takeover capability that takeover players have."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GTA GROWTH

Rather than head south to finish high school, Jamal Murray attended the Athlete Institute Basketball Academy in Orangeville, home to the Orangeville Prep team.

IN BRIEF

All-star captain Scott sent to minor leagues

An NHL all-star captain has been demoted.

Arizona Coyotes tough guy John Scott, voted as one of four captains for the NHL all-star game, was sent to Springfield of the AHL on Wednesday after clearing waivers earlier this season.

Arizona coach Dave Tippett said Scott will likely be back with the Coyotes in the next couple of days, allowing him to participate in the Jan. 31 all-star game in Nashville. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wizards get boost from returning swingman Beal

John Wall scored 19 points and backcourt mate Bradley Beal had 11 in his return from injury to help the Washington Wizards beat the Milwaukee Bucks 106-101 on Wednesday night.

Beal came off the bench and played 22 minutes in his first game since Dec. 9. He had been sidelined with a stress reaction in his lower right leg.

Ramon Sessions added 15 points and Jared Dudley had 13 for Washington, including two late three-pointers to help preserve a third straight win.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Gunners slowed as Allen rescues Reds

His eyes bulging and his teeth gritted, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp sprinted along the touchline, gave a double fist pump and furiously beat his chest.

Klopp's celebration to greet his team's last-gasp equalizer was as wild as the game itself, as Liverpool and Arsenal served up a pulsating 3-3 draw at Anfield on Wednesday.

"People will talk about this game," Klopp said. "It's not easy to forget."

An end-to-end match that started in the rain and climaxed in the snow got a fitting conclusion when substitute Joe Allen steered home a 90th-minute volley to salvage Liverpool a point that its strong finish deserved.

Four goals were scored in 15 frantic minutes in the first half, with Roberto Firmino twice giving Liverpool the lead only for Aaron Ramsey and Olivier Giroud to bring Arsenal level.

When Giroud struck with a wonderful Cruyff turn to curl home a finish in the 55th minute, it looked as if Arsenal would be preserving its two-point lead at the top of the Premier League. Allen's goal, however, wiped out the visitors' advantage and left them tied for points with Leicester after 21 games.

"Hopefully, we are not going to have to regret this goal at the end of the championship," Giroud said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joe Allen, centre, salvaged a point for Liverpool with a 90th-minute equalizer against Arsenal. PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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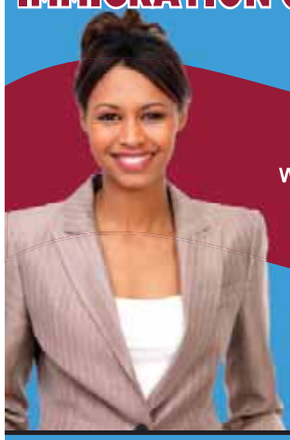
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RECIPE Ginger Pork Noodles

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This light and brothy pasta marks a fresh break from your same-old pasta bolognese. And the bright snap peas remind us that spring will come eventually.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

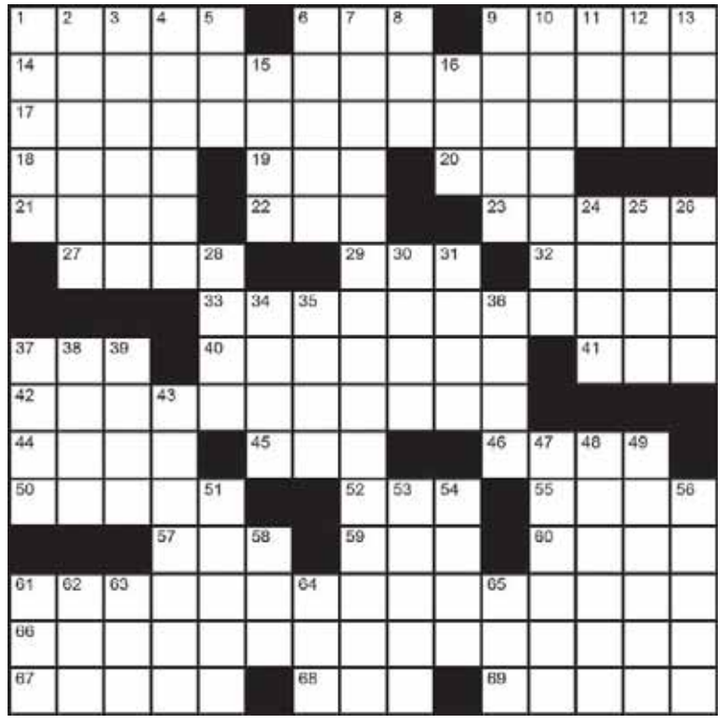
Ingredients
- 250 g rigatoni or egg noodles
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 cooking onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup mushrooms, chopped
- 500 g ground pork
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp ginger, minced
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup sugar snap peas (or other crunch green)
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp spring onions, chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh cilantro

Directions
1. Make pasta according to instructions and set aside.
2. Heat olive oil in a wok or deep skillet over medium heat. Soften chopped onion for 3 minutes. Add mushrooms, and once softened add minced pork.
3. After pork is cooked add garlic and ginger. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir and cook for a couple of minutes, then add sugar snap peas. Pour stock over pork mixture, which will make it soup-y. Add chopped spring/green onion and stir until blended. Ladle over the noodles and garnish with cilantro.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Pomp
6. Audi models
9. Q. "What Beatles song goes 'Treasure these few words...'?" A. "It's known __ '_._. _ Love You'."
14. "Big improvement!": 4 wds.
17. One of the National Gallery of Canada's collections: 2 wds.
18. Obscure
19. Sass
20. Hairstyling goo
21. Ancient war god
22. Here: French
23. Do the foxtrot
27. Title for a Miss, in Madrid [abbr.]
29. Music trio, e.g.
32. Back
33. Crispy appetizers topped with cheese: 2 wds.
37. Tavern drink
40. First three words of a hoping-to-be-rescued person's promise to his or herself...
41. Director Spike
42. Canadian politician like Thomas Mulcair: 2 wds.
44. Leg joint
45. Time off, slang-style
46. Pinnacle
50. Dwells on
52. American battleship letters
55. Website's main page
57. Type of bird
59. 'Proverb' suffix
60. "From here __...": 2 wds.
61. Higher food costs mean it will be more expensive for this in 2016: 2 wds.
66. British actor who played Chief Inspector Armand Gamache in "Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery", a 2013 TV adaptation of Canadian author Louise Penny's work: 2 wds.
67. Articulate
68. Art Garfunkel's partner ...his initials-sharers
69. Ladies

DOWN
1. __ Sketch
2. Sunday performers
3. Visiting-a-planet craft
4. Certify
5. Literary monogram
6. Theme
7. Escaping-the-winter-cold vacations: 2 wds.
8. Sun. address
9. Ventilated
10. Canadian band with the 1972 hit "Wildflower"
11. __ coat
12. Lady's man
13. TV Cousin
15. Nero's 2051
16. Time delay
24. Mr. Peart of Rush
25. Tapdancer's prop
26. Gaelic
28. Cap-_-__ (From head to toe)
30. Mix
31. Explosive star
34. Beatles: "Being for the Benefit __ __. Kite!"
35. Common noun suffix
36. __ _ date (Plan the wedding)
37. Cross of ancient Egypt
38. Ms. Horne
39. Water carrier
43. New Wave band, __ Mode
47. Well-being expert Deepak
48. Canadian broadcaster Ms. Deol who famously hosted "Electric Circus" on MuchMusic
49. Marshall Mathers' alias
51. __ campaign (Political ploy, perhaps)
53. Montreal-born humourist Mort, and surnamesakes
54. Swill
56. Bridge builders, briefly
58. Samovar
61. Wildebeest
62. Scoundrel
63. Canuck cap.
64. Baby dog's cry
65. Cooking spray brand

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Push yourself today. Make a special effort to get things done on time and to a high standard. You're sure to be rewarded and employers will think more highly of you in future.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
No matter how much you may desire something once you have got it you will realize it was not what you wanted after all. The fact is you are searching for something deeper, so look inside your head and your heart.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Don't just sit and watch the world go by, get out there. Choose your friends carefully but don't get so hung up on other people's worth that you don't leave time to have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Someone you do business with may use unfair methods and tactics but don't lower your standards to keep up. You may be at a disadvantage in the short-term but over time your reputation will work in your favour.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
There are so many things you want to do but you're human and have to consider your limits. Focus only on the things that really matter. Talk only to people who matter as well.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Get that pent-up emotion out of your system. Try something that makes you work up a sweat, something you can do on your own — team sports could end in fights.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be honest about your feelings today. If you don't deal with bad emotions now they will hold you back later. If you're working on a team you need to get past the personal.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you fear the worst today it will most likely happen. If you expect the best you will be pleasantly surprised. The Sun's link with Mercury, planet of the mind, means that good thoughts willlead to good things.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't let money matters and other materialistic issues take over your life. Move past worldly things and discover the riches to be enjoyed in feelings that come from the heart.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If your sixth sense tells you to stop what you are doing and check the details again, listen to it. Mercury in your sign heightens your perception but may also distort things a little, so err on the side of caution.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart suggests that your behaviour will be criticized today. If you're smart you will heed the protests and change your ways.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
No matter how weighed down by responsibilities you are you must find ways to get away from your everyday environment. Do only what makes you feel good about yourself.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		4		5		9		
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		6				2	3	
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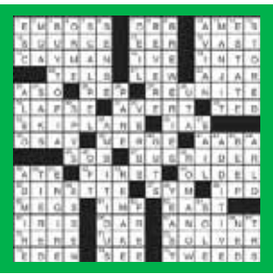

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5	7	3	2	1	4	6	9	8
6	1	4	9	8	7	2	3	5
1	3	2	4	9	6	8	5	7
4	9	6	7	5	8	3	1	2
8	5	7	3	2	1	9	4	6

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